Public Works.

18. In 1104, the expenditure on the Public Works Department was higher than in any previous year. The expenditure on ordinary public works charged to revenue amounted to Rs. 42 lakhs nearly, of which a sum of Rs. 25·80 lakhs was spent on communications. Of this, the amount devoted to construction was Rs. 16·24 lakhs and that spent on repairs was Rs. 9·56 lakhs. 48 miles of road were newly opened and 282 miles improved. The total length of communications maintained was 4,852 miles. The Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, estimated to cost Rs. 14·26 lakhs in all, made good progress and will, when completed, provide a good ghat road fit for motor lorries and facilitate access to the Cochin Harbour and the backwaters from the planting districts in the High Range. The expenditure on buildings was Rs. 7·38 lakhs, of which educational buildings consumed tha largest share. A sum of Rs. 15·29 lakhs was spent besides on works of a capital nature, *viz.*, the Trivandrum Water Works (Rs. 8·55 lakhs), the Trivandrum Electric Supply and Telephone Schemes (Rs. 3·02 laks) and the construction of the bridge across the Neendakara Bar (Rs. 3·72 lakhs). Including the capital outlay and the expenditure on contribution works, the total amount spent by the P. W. D. during 1104 was Rs. 52·16 lakhs.

Road Boards.

19. It was stated at the last session of the Assembly that Government proposed to organise a Roads and Waterways Board for each P. W. Division and a Central Board for the whole State in each of which representatives of the people will be associated. The rules for the creation of these Boards have now been issued and their functions comprise the whole province of inland communications, as they can tender advice in the matter of the opening, improvement and maintenance of roads, bridges and waterways in the State. Copies of the Rules and of the Government Proceedings publishing the rules have been made available to you and you will find therefrom that all the representatives of taluks and of the planting interests in the High Range are *ex officio* members of their respective District Boards and that six of you to be elected by the District Boards are on the Central Board. The constitution of the Boards has been so framed that official experience and local knowledge as well as the wishes of the people's representatives may exercise adequate influence in the preparation of the annual programme for the development of communications. I trust that the Boards will prove of great help to the Government and the people in working out a more definite and systematic policy for the expansion of communications.

Trivandrum Water Works.

20. Estimates and plans for the Water Works had been prepared in 1921. But they were found to require revision and Mr. C. Balakrishna Rao, Executive Engineer, was deputed for the work. The revised estimates prepared by him and approved by the Chief Engineer have

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